



500.39093X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): MATSUMOTO, et al

Serial No.: 09/665,694

Filed: September 20, 2000

For: NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL PROBE, NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL MICROSCOPE AND OPTICAL RECORDING/ REPRODUCING DEVICE WITH NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL PROBE

Group: 2877

Examiner: R. Punnoose

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98

Mail Stop DD
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 12, 2003

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicant(s) is/are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance and is accompanied by the following certification specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e).

On information and belief, each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

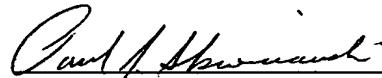
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To the extent that, the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449, are not in the English language, the requirement of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance is satisfied by an English language abstract of the document.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.39093X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Form PTO-1449
Equivalent

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

Atty. Docket No. 500.39093X00
Serial No. 09/665,694
Applicant: MATSUMOTO et al
Filing Date: September 20, 2000
Group: 2877



U.S. Patent Documents

Examiner Initials	Document No.	Date	Name	Class Subclass	Filing Date If Approp.
	5,696,372	12/97	Grober et al		

Foreign Patent Documents

Document No.	Date	Country	Class Subclass	Translation Yes No
JP 11-316241	11/99	Japan		(abstract)

Other Documents (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

Examiner

Date Considered

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609;
Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next
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